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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.<br><b>09/922,221</b> | Applicant(s)<br><b>Evans</b> |
|                               | Examiner<br><b>Arun Chakrabarti</b>  | Art Unit<br><b>1634</b>      |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 5/27/03

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23

3.  The drawings filed on Aug 2, 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4.  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a)  All      b)  Some\*      c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

5.  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

(a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

6.  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

(c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>0603</u> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |  |

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***Reasons for Allowance***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method of assembling a double-stranded polynucleotide comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting a partially double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide, wherein the initiating oligonucleotide comprises at least one overhang;
- b) contacting the partially double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide with a next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide, wherein the next most terminal double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide is contiguous with the initiating oligonucleotide and comprises at least one overhang, and wherein at least one overhang of the next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide is complementary to at least one overhang of the initiating oligonucleotide ;
- c) repeating step (b) to sequentially add the next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide to the extended initiating oligonucleotide, whereby the double-stranded oligonucleotide is synthesized.

Although Beattie et al., (Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry, (1988), Vol. 10, pages 510-521). teaches a method of assembling a double-stranded polynucleotide, Beattie et al. does not teach the sequential addition of a next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide of step (b).

In view of the absence of either teaching or suggestion of such a method of assembling a double-stranded polynucleotide comprising the steps of:

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- a) selecting a partially double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide, wherein the initiating oligonucleotide comprises at least one overhang;
- b) contacting the partially double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide with a next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide, wherein the next most terminal double-stranded initiating oligonucleotide is contiguous with the initiating oligonucleotide and comprises at least one overhang, and wherein at least one overhang of the next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide is complementary to at least one overhang of the initiating oligonucleotide ;
- c) repeating step (b) to sequentially add the next most terminal double-stranded oligonucleotide to the extended initiating oligonucleotide, whereby the double-stranded oligonucleotide is synthesized., the present invention is novel and non-obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arun Chakrabarti , Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 306-5818. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM-4:30 PM from Monday to Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the examiner's

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supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (703) 308-1119. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 746-4979. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group analyst Chantae Dessau whose telephone number is (703) 605-1237.

Arun Chakrabarti,

Patent Examiner,

June 27, 2003



**ETHAN WHISENANT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**